

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY ACDA/MA:RMIKULAK
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY
INFO USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 197704

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, UR, US, CCD

SUBJECT: US-USSR CHEMICAL WEAPONS NEGOTIATIONS

REF: GENEVA 6492

1. ON FRIDAY, AUGUST 4 1978, ACDA ASSISTANT DIRECTOR
THOMAS DAVIES PROVIDED A NON-PAPER ON THE US-USSR CHEMICAL
WEAPONS NEGOTIATIONS TO SOVIET EMBASSY MINISTER-COUNSELOR
A.I. BESSMERTNYKH. DAVIES REQUESTED THAT THE NON-PAPER
BE CONVEYED TO THE SOVIET GOVERNMENT IN MOSCOW. (TEXT
OF NON-PAPER IS CONTAINED IN PARAS 3-7 BELOW.)

2. WE WOULD APPRECIATE EMBASSY MAKING A PARALLEL
APPROACH AT AN APPROPRIATE SENIOR LEVEL.

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3. TEXT OF NON-PAPER FOLLOWS: AFTER REVIEWING THE
STATUS OF THE US-USSR CHEMICAL WEAPONS NEGOTIATIONS, THE
UNITED STATES HAS CONCLUDED THAT THE GROUP OF ISSUES
RELATED TO CHEMICAL WEAPONS PRODUCTION AND FILLING
FACILITIES POSES ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT OBSTACLES TO
A JOINT INITIATIVE. UNFORTUNATELY THE TWO DELEGATIONS
HAVE MADE LITTLE PROGRESS ON THESE ISSUES.

4. THE UNITED STATES HAS PROPOSED THAT EACH STATE

DECLARE ALL FACILITIES FOR: (A) PRODUCTION OF CHEMICALS THAT ARE PRIMARILY USEFUL FOR CHEMICAL WEAPONS PURPOSES, AND (B) FILLING OF CHEMICAL WEAPONS. THE DECLARATION WOULD ALSO COVER FACILITIES DESIGNED, BUT NOT USED, FOR SUCH PRODUCTION OR FILLING. IN THE US VIEW SUCH FACILITIES SHOULD BE PLACED IN AN INACTIVE ("MOTHBALLED") STATUS AS SOON AS A STATE BECOMES A PARTY TO THE CONVENTION. THE FACILITIES SHOULD BE DESTROYED BY AN AGREED DEADLINE. UNDER THE US PROPOSALS THE MOTHBALLING AND DESTRUCTION OF THE FACILITIES WOULD BE VERIFIED BY INTERNATIONAL ON-SITE INSPECTION.

5. THE INITIAL SOVIET PROPOSALS IN THIS AREA, MADE IN AUGUST, 1977, DEALT WITH "INDUSTRIAL FACILITIES" AND "INDUSTRIAL UNITS". HOWEVER, SINCE FEBRUARY, 1978, THE TERM "CAPABILITY" HAS BEEN EMPLOYED INSTEAD. THE US DELEGATION HAS REPEATEDLY SOUGHT AN EXPLANATION OF THIS TERM, BUT NONE HAS YET BEEN RECEIVED.

6. THE LACK OF A CLEAR SOVIET POSITION IN THIS AREA HAS MADE IT MORE DIFFICULT TO ADVANCE TOWARD A JOINT INITIATIVE. UNLESS THE UNITED STATES HAS AN UNDERSTANDING OF THE SOVIET APPROACH AND THE CONCERNS ON WHICH IT IS CONFIDENTIAL

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BASED, THE SEARCH FOR MUTUALLY ACCEPTABLE SOLUTIONS TO THE VERY IMPORTANT ISSUES RELATED TO FACILITIES IS UNLIKELY TO MAKE MUCH PROGRESS. FOR THAT REASON, THE UNITED STATES WOULD LIKE TO RECEIVE A MORE DETAILED PRESENTATION OF SOVIET VIEWS IN THIS AREA, PARTICULARLY AN EXPLANATION OF THE TERM "CAPABILITY", EARLY IN THE NEXT ROUND OF BILATERAL NEGOTIATIONS, WHICH BEGIN ON AUGUST 17. VANCE

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